



Aruba celebrates its Torchlight Parade for Carnival 72!



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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY
PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

SUNDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

MONDAY:
ANDERSON BAHAMON
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

TUESDAY:
JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAY:
MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

THURSDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

FRIDAY:
MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST
7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.

SATURDAY:
RICKY THOMAS
GUITAR
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

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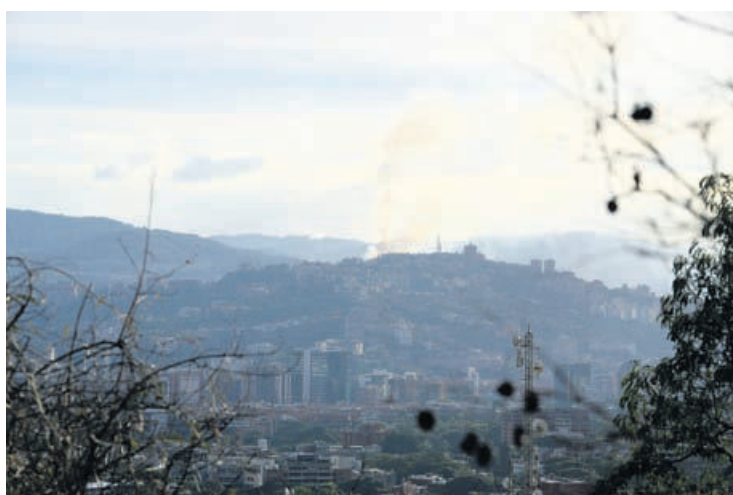
U.S. military operation in Venezuela disrupts Caribbean holiday travel, hundreds of flights canceled

By **MATT O'BRIEN,**
JOSH FUNK and
AUDREY MCAVOY
Associated Press

The U.S. military operation that captured Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and flew him out of the country early Saturday also disrupted Caribbean travel at a busy travel time for the region.

No airline flights were crossing over Venezuela that day, according to Flight-Radar24.com. And major airlines canceled hundreds of flights across the eastern Caribbean region and warned passengers that disruptions could continue for days after the Federal Aviation Administration imposed restrictions.

Flights were canceled to



Smoke rises from Fort Tiuna, the main military garrison in Caracas, Venezuela, Saturday, Jan. 3, 2026, after multiple explosions were heard and aircraft swept through the area.

Associated Press

and from Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Aruba and more than a dozen other destinations in the Lesser Antilles island group north of Venezuela. Airlines

waived change fees for passengers who had to re-schedule flights.

But U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said Saturday night that the re-

strictions would end at midnight EST and airlines would be able to resume normal operations Sunday.

Southwest Airlines said in a statement that it added six extra round-trip flights to Puerto Rico on Sunday's schedule and another eight round-trips on Monday to help get travelers home from their vacations. It also added two additional Sunday flights to Aruba. At the Queen Beatrix airport in Aruba, a popular holiday destination for U.S. vacationers just 15 miles (24 kilometers) off Venezuela's coast, officials said they expected a return to normal Sunday after a day of canceled flights that stranded travelers or blocked them from flying to the island.

In Barbados, Prime Minister Mia Mottley said at a news conference that "the consequences of the conflict have been exceedingly disruptive to both of our ports of entry," an airport as well as a seaport from which cruise ships sail.

In Puerto Rico, Lou Levine, his wife and their three children were due to return to the Washington, D.C., area Saturday morning, but he woke up to his wife saying their flight was canceled. He found out why when he checked his phone.

They first tried calling Jet-Blue to reschedule. The airline called back about two hours later, but the agent was not able to help them. Levine and his wife saw others messaging Jet-Blue on social media and did the same. The airline responded and booked them on a flight Saturday, turning their weeklong New Year's holiday into a two-week sojourn.

Levine, a manager at a software company, said he is fortunate to have a flexible and understanding employer. But his daughter will be missing a week of high school. And then there are the unexpected expenses. "I love it here. But we have dog-sitting and cat-sitting and car rental. It's fine. It's just really painful on the wallet," Levine said.

The Levines hoped to book

an earlier trip back if possible.

This weekend was already past the peak 13-day holiday period when AAA projected that 122.4 million Americans would travel at least 50 miles (80 kilometers) from home, but there were plenty of travelers still trying to squeeze in some more time on tropical beaches before heading back to colder temperatures.

"The Caribbean is a top destination this time of the year," AAA spokesperson Aixa Diaz said. "We do have a lot of people who are trying to get back home this weekend ahead of work and school on Monday."

Diaz said "it's understandable we want to unplug," but travelers should keep track of what's going on and allow airlines to send them phone alerts.

An announcement by Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport in San Juan, Puerto Rico, that was posted on the social platform X said restrictions were put in place because of the "security situation related to military activity" in Venezuela. As a result, nearly 60% of all flights to and from that airport were canceled Saturday, according to FlightAware.com.

Foreign airlines and military aircraft were not included in the restriction, the statement said. Air Canada said its flights to the Caribbean were operating normally, though it gave travelers an option to rebook. Another Canadian airline, WestJet, said it canceled Aruba flights "out of an abundance of caution."

All major U.S. airlines cancelled flights across the Eastern Caribbean Saturday because of the restrictions and adjusted their schedules.

Nearly two dozen island destinations were affected by the cancellations, including Anguilla, Antigua, Curacao, St. Lucia and the U.S. and British Virgin Islands. But destinations farther to the west like the Dominican Republic and Jamaica were generally not affected. □



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Rubio says US won't govern Venezuela but will press for changes through oil blockade

By REGINA GARCIA CANO,
MATTHEW LEE, WILL WEISSERT
and ERIC TUCKER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Marco Rubio suggested Sunday that the United States would not govern Venezuela day-to-day other than enforcing an existing "oil quarantine" on the country, a turnaround after President Donald Trump announced a day earlier that the U.S. would be running Venezuela following its ouster of leader Nicolás Maduro. Rubio's statements on TV talk shows seemed designed to temper concerns that the assertive action to achieve regime change in Venezuela might lead the U.S. into another prolonged foreign intervention or failed attempt at nation-building. They stood in contrast to Trump's broad but vague claims that the U.S. would at least temporarily "run" the oil-rich nation, comments that suggested some sort of governing structure under which Caracas would be controlled by Washington. Rubio offered a more nuanced take, saying the U.S. would continue to enforce an oil quarantine that was already in place on sanctioned tankers before Maduro was removed from power early Saturday and use that leverage as a means to press policy changes in Venezuela. "And so that's the sort of control the president is pointing to when he says that," Rubio said on CBS' "Face the Nation." "We continue with that quarantine, and we expect to see that there will be changes, not just in the way the oil industry is run for the benefit of the people, but also so that they stop the drug trafficking."

The blockade on sanctioned oil tankers — some of which have been seized by the U.S. — "remains in place, and that's a tremendous amount of leverage that will continue to be in place until we see changes that not just further the national interest of the United States, which is number one, but also that lead to a better future for the people of Venezuela," he added.



President Donald Trump speaks during a news conference at Mar-a-Lago, Saturday, Jan. 3, 2026, in Palm Beach, Fla., as Secretary of State Marco Rubio listens.

Leaders in Venezuela have so far pushed back, at least publicly, calling on the Trump administration to release Maduro.

Even before the operation that nabbed Maduro, experts were already questioning the legality of aspects of the administration's pressure campaign on Venezuela, including the deadly bombing of boats accused of trafficking drugs that some scholars said stretched the boundaries of international law.

Trump repeated vow U.S. would 'run' Venezuela

Trump's vow to "run" Venezuela, repeated more than half a dozen times at a news conference in Florida on Saturday, sparked concerns among some Democrats. It also drew unease from parts of his own Republican coalition, including an "America First" base that is opposed to foreign interventions, and from observers who recalled past nation-building efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Rubio dismissed such criticism, saying Trump's intent had been misunderstood. "The whole foreign policy apparatus thinks everything is Libya, everything is Iraq, everything is Afghanistan," Rubio said. "This is not the Middle East. And our mission here is very different. This is the Western Hemisphere."

Rubio also suggested the U.S. would give Maduro's subordinates now in charge time to govern, saying, "We're going to judge everything by what they do." And though he did not rule out boots on the ground in Venezuela, Rubio said the U.S., which has built up its presence in the region, was already capable of stopping drug boats and sanctioned tankers.

A day earlier, Trump told reporters, "We're going to run the country until such time as we can do a safe, proper and judicious transition." He later pointed to his national security team with him, including Rubio and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, and said it would be done for a period of time by "the people that are standing right behind me. We're gonna be running it, we're gonna be bringing it back."

The White House declined to comment beyond what Trump said Saturday.

Maduro's arrival

Maduro landed late Saturday afternoon at a small airport in New York City's northern suburbs following the middle-of-the-night operation that extracted him and his wife, Cilia Flores, from their home in a military base in the capital city of Caracas — an act Maduro's government called "imperialist." The

couple faces U.S. charges of participating in a narco-terrorism conspiracy.

The dramatic seizure of the Maduros capped an intensive Trump administration pressure campaign on Venezuela's autocratic leader and months of secret planning, resulting in the most assertive American action to achieve regime change since the 2003 invasion of Iraq. Legal experts raised questions about the lawfulness of the operation, which was done without congressional approval.

Venezuela's vice president, Delcy Rodríguez, demanded that the U.S. free Maduro and called him the country's rightful leader as her nation's high court named her interim president. So did the country's defense minister, Vladimir Padrino López, who said Sunday that the country's armed forces "categorically reject the cowardly kidnapping" and will "maintain internal order and peace."

Maduro is due to make his first appearance Monday in Manhattan's federal court. Maduro and other Venezuelan officials were indicted in 2020 on narco-terrorism conspiracy charges, and the Justice Department released a new indictment Saturday of Maduro and his wife that painted his administration

as a "corrupt, illegitimate government" fueled by a drug-trafficking operation that flooded the U.S. with cocaine. The U.S. government does not recognize Maduro as the country's leader.

The Trump administration spent months building up American forces in the region and carrying out attacks on boats in the Caribbean Sea and eastern Pacific Ocean for allegedly ferrying drugs.

Quiet falls in Venezuela after U.S. operation

Venezuela's government kept operating as usual over the weekend as ministers remained in their posts.

The capital was unusually quiet Sunday with few vehicles moving around and convenience stores, gas stations and other businesses closed.

Maduro's son, lawmaker Nicolás Ernesto Guerra, has not appeared in public since the attack. On Saturday he posted on Instagram a government statement repudiating the capture of his father and stepmother.

The country's incoming National Assembly is set to be sworn in at the legislative palace in Caracas. The unicameral assembly will remain under control of the ruling party.

Under Venezuelan law, Rodríguez would take over from Maduro. Rodríguez, however, stressed during a Saturday appearance on state television that she did not plan to assume power, before Venezuela's high court ordered that she assume the interim role. Trump told The Atlantic in an interview Sunday that Rodríguez could "pay a very big price" if she doesn't do what he thinks is right for Venezuela. That contrasted with the Republican president's comments about Rodríguez on Saturday when he said Rubio had spoken with her and she was willing to do what the U.S. thinks is needed to improve the standard of living in Venezuela.

Trump told the New York Post in an interview Saturday that the U.S. wouldn't need to station troops in Venezuela if she "does what we want." □

Minnesota must provide documents to U.S. government in child care fraud probe by next week

By **CHARLOTTE KRAMON**
Associated Press/Report for America

Minnesota officials have until next week to hand over information on providers and parents who receive federal child care funds that the Trump administration contends have been used fraudulently or risk losing federal funding. State officials said Friday recent inspections showed several childcare centers accused of fraud by a right-wing influencer were "operating as expected."

In an email sent Friday to child care providers and shared with The Associated Press by multiple providers, Minnesota's Department of Children, Youth, and Families said it has until Jan. 9 to provide information about recipients of the funds.

The announcement earlier this week by the Trump administration that it would freeze child care funds to Minnesota and the rest of the states comes after a series of fraud cases involving government programs in which many defendants were Somali, as were many of those running spotlighted childcare centers.

Allegations of fraud at the child care centers went viral recently when a right-wing influencer posted a



State Sen. Michelle Benson reacts at a news conference on Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at the Minnesota State Capitol in St. Paul to a report by the state's legislative auditor on combatting fraud in Minnesota's Child Care Assistance Program.

video claiming there was fraud taking place, putting Minnesota and some other states in the crosshairs of the Trump administration. State officials said investigators did spot checks and reviews of nine centers this week in response to the influencer's video posted last week, and found no operational issues. One center was not yet open at the time, and there are ongoing investigations at four of them. The email sent Friday instructed providers and families who rely on the frozen federal child care program to continue the

program's "licensing and certification requirements and practices as usual." It does not say that recipients themselves need to take any action or provide any information.

"We recognize the alarm and questions this has raised," the email said. "We found out about the freezing of funds at the same time everyone else did on social media."

The state agency added that it "did not receive a formal communication from the federal government until late Tuesday night," which was after Health and

Human Services Deputy Secretary Jim O'Neill posted about the freeze on X. All 50 states will have to provide additional levels of verification and administrative data before they receive more funding from the Child Care and Development Fund, which is designed to make child care affordable for low-income families.

Minnesota is a target

The U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform will hold a hearing Wednesday to discuss the allegations of fraudulent use of federal

funds in Minnesota. An HHS spokesperson said that the child care fraud hotline put up by the federal agency earlier this week has received more than 200 tips. Minnesota has drawn ire from Republicans and the Trump administration over other fraud accusations.

Administration for Children and Families Assistant Secretary Alex Adams told Fox News on Friday that his agency sent Minnesota a letter last month asking for information on the child care program and other welfare programs by Dec. 26, but didn't get a response. The state did not immediately respond to a request for comment. President Donald Trump has also targeted the state's large Somali community with immigration enforcement actions and called them "garbage."

Minnesota Democrats say the Trump administration is playing politics and hurting families and children as a result. Minnesota's Department of Children, Youth and Families said in a press release Friday that inspectors conduct regular oversight activities for the child care program, noting that there are 55 related open investigations involving providers. □



People wait to enter a gun store in Culver City, Calif., March 15, 2020.

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

— A federal appeals panel has ruled that a California law prohibiting open carry of firearms in heavily populated counties is unconsti-

tutional.

The ruling was issued Friday by two judges on a three-judge panel for the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The judges found that the

Appeals panel says California's ban on open carry in more populated counties is unconstitutional

state's policy of limiting open carry to counties with a population of less than 200,000 is inconsistent with the Second Amendment.

"California's legal regime is a complete ban on open carry in urban areas — the areas of the state where 95% of the people live," they said in the decision.

The dissenting judge disagreed and said California could limit open carry in more populated areas because it allows for concealed carry throughout the state.

The ruling comes in a long-

running debate over gun laws in the United States and in California, which has passed a series of restrictions.

It came after Mark Baird, a Siskiyou County resident, filed a lawsuit asking the courts to restore the historical practice of open carry being allowed.

Chuck Michel, president of the California Rifle & Pistol Association, said he expected state officials will seek a review of the ruling by the full appeals court.

"It's a very significant opinion," Michel said, adding that a key question in the

case is how a 2022 Supreme Court decision expanding gun rights should be applied.

The press office for Gov. Gavin Newsom said in a statement on social media that the state's law was carefully crafted to comply with the Second Amendment.

"California just got military troops with weapons of war off of the streets of our cities, but now Republican activists on the Ninth Circuit want to replace them with gunslingers and return to the days of the Wild West," the statement said. □

Iran's leader says rioters 'must be put in their place' as protest death toll reaches at least 15



In this photo released by an official website of the office of the Iranian supreme leader, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei speaks in a ceremony to mark the Shiite holiday of Eid al-Ghadir, in Tehran, Iran, Tuesday, June 25, 2024.

Associated Press

By JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Iran's supreme leader insisted Saturday that "rioters must be put in their place" after a week of protests that have shaken the Islamic Republic, likely giving security forces a green light to aggressively put down the demonstrations.

The first comments by 86-year-old Ayatollah Ali Khamenei come as violence surrounding the demonstrations sparked by Iran's ailing economy has killed at least 15 people, according to human rights activists. The protests show no sign of stopping and follow U.S. President Donald Trump warning Iran on Friday that if Tehran "violently kills peaceful protesters," the United States "will come to their rescue."

While it remains unclear how and if Trump will intervene, his comments sparked an immediate, angry response, with officials within the theocracy threatening to target American troops in the Mideast. They also take on new importance after Trump said Saturday that the U.S. military captured Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, a longtime ally of Tehran. The protests, have become

the biggest in Iran since 2022, when the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in police custody triggered nationwide demonstrations. However, the protests have yet to be as widespread and intense as those surrounding the death of Amini, who was detained over not wearing her hijab, or headscarf, to the liking of authorities. Khamenei makes first comments on protests

State television aired remarks by Khamenei to an audience in Tehran that sought to separate the concerns of protesting Iranians upset about the rial's collapse from "rioters."

"We talk to protesters, the officials must talk to them," Khamenei said. "But there is no benefit to talking to rioters. Rioters must be put in their place."

He also reiterated a claim constantly made by officials in Iran that foreign powers like Israel or the United States were pushing the protests, without offering any evidence. He also blamed "the enemy" for Iran's collapsing rial.

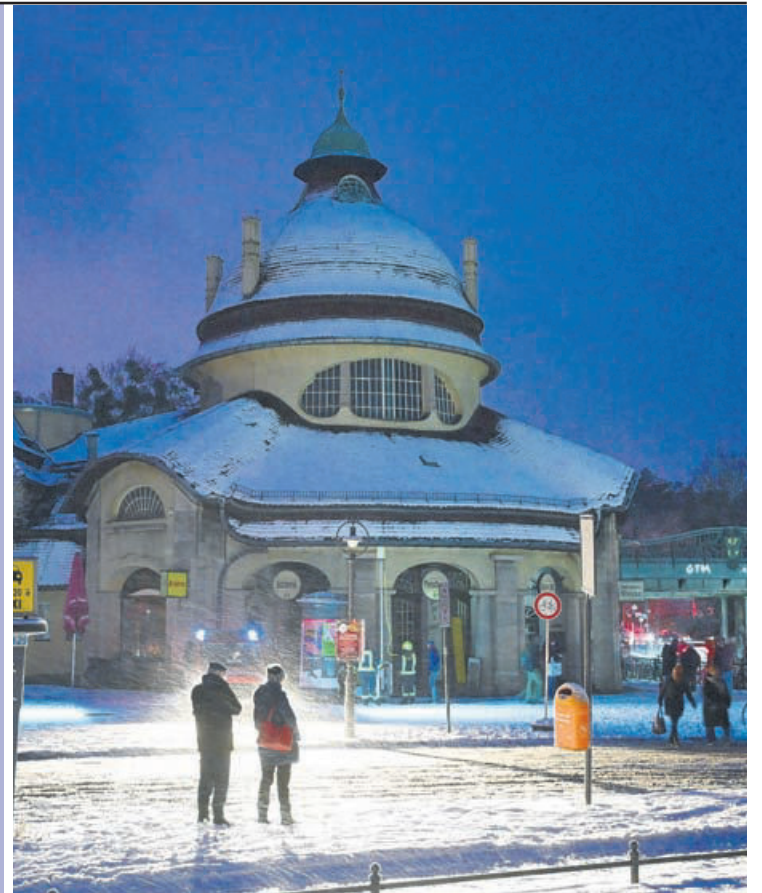
"A bunch of people incited or hired by the enemy are getting behind the tradesmen and shopkeepers and chanting slogans against Islam, Iran and the Islamic Republic," he said. "This is

what matters most."

Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard ranks include the all-volunteer Basij force, whose motorcycling-riding members have violently put down protests like the 2009 Green Movement and the 2022 demonstrations. The Guard answers only to Khamenei.

Hard-line officials within the country are believed to have been pushing for a more-aggressive response to the demonstrations as President Masoud Pezeshkian has sought talks to address protesters' demands. But bloody security crackdowns often follow such protests. Protests over a gasoline price hike in 2019 reportedly saw over 300 people killed. A crackdown on the Amini protests of 2022, which lasted for months, killed more than 500 people and saw over 22,000 detained.

"Iran has no organized domestic opposition; protesters are likely acting spontaneously," the Eurasia Group said in an analysis Friday. "While protests could continue or grow larger (particularly as Iran's economic outlook remains dire), the regime retains a large security apparatus and would likely suppress such dissent without losing control of the country." □



Passers-by stand in the light of a fire department help point in Berlin, Germany, Saturday, Jan. 3, 2025, during a power cut in south-west Berlin after a fire on a cable bridge.

Associated Press

Berlin power outage affecting 45,000 homes blamed on 'politically motivated' attack

BERLIN (AP) — Many households and businesses in south-west Berlin face days without electricity after high-voltage power lines were damaged by a fire which city authorities said Sunday was a result of a politically motivated attack by "left-wing extremists."

The fire broke out on Saturday morning on a cable bridge over the Teltow Canal, near the Lichterfelde power plant, according to local authorities. Initially, over 45,000 households and 2,200 businesses in four districts were without electricity. Heating and internet services were also affected.

Franziska Giffey, the city's Senator for Economic Affairs, described the incident as "a particularly severe power outage affecting tens of thousands of households and businesses, including care facilities, hospitals, numerous social institutions and companies."

While power was restored

to thousands of households by Sunday, many others are likely to be left in the dark until Thursday, authorities estimate.

Snowy weather and freezing temperatures has slowed down efforts to restore electricity and made life extra difficult for those affected.

The incident is being investigated as a possible act of arson. Authorities compared it to a similar power outage last September in southeast Berlin, when radical activists claimed responsibility.

Authorities said they were working to confirm the authenticity of a letter claiming responsibility for the latest incident.

The perpetrators were "clearly left-wing extremists," Berlin's Mayor Kai Wegner was cited as saying by a German news agency. "It is unacceptable that once again clearly left-wing extremists have attacked our power grid and thereby endangered human lives," Wegner said. □

Venezuelans remain shell-shocked a day after U.S. captured Maduro

By REGINA GARCIA CANO, MEGAN JANETSKY and JUAN ARRAEZ

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Venezuelans on Sunday remained shell-shocked a day after President Nicolás Maduro was deposed and captured in a U.S. military operation, with an uncertain future ahead in the South American nation.

A tense calm settled over the capital, Caracas, which was unusually quiet. Many stores, gas stations and churches remained closed and people patiently lined up outside others, staring at their phones or into the distance.

"People are still shaken," said 77-year-old David Leal, who arrived to work as a parking attendant but realized he likely would not have customers. He pointed to the deserted street.

While Maduro was in custody in New York, the officials who had surrounded him remained in power and demanded his release. Venezuela's presidential palace was guarded by armed civilians and members of the military. U.S. President Donald Trump on Saturday asserted that his administration would "run" Venezuela with the help of Delcy Rodríguez, Maduro's



Residents look at a damaged apartment complex that neighbors say was hit during U.S. strikes to capture Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, in Catia La Mar, Venezuela, Sunday, Jan. 4, 2026. Associated Press

vice president and now the interim president after a high court's order.

But Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Sunday appeared to back off Trump's assertion. In interviews with CBS and ABC, he insisted instead that Washington will use control of Venezuela's oil industry to force policy changes. He said the government currently in place was illegitimate but a step toward where the U.S. wanted Venezuela to be.

"We want to see Venezuela transition to be a place completely different than what it looks like today. But obviously, we don't have the expectation that's going to happen in the next 15 hours," Rubio said. "There has to be a little realism here."

While Venezuelans in the U.S. and Latin America broke out in celebration or protest, there were no signs of celebration within the country. A number of government supporters rallied over the

weekend, some burning U.S. flags and holding signs reading "gringo go home".

In a low-income neighborhood in eastern Caracas, construction worker Daniel Medalla sat on the steps outside a Catholic church and told a few parishioners that there would be no morning Mass. Medalla said he believed the streets remained mostly empty because people fear government repression if they dare celebrate. "We were longing for it,"

Medalla, 66, said of Maduro's exit. There are fresh memories of a government crackdown during 2024's fraught elections, which Maduro was widely accused of stealing. Street protests left 28 people dead, 220 injured and at least 2,000 detained, according to official figures. In the coastal state of La Guaira, families with houses damaged in blasts during the overnight operation that captured Maduro and his wife were cleaning up debris.

Wilman González, who was left with a black eye from a blast, picked through rubble on his floors, surrounded by broken furniture. One part of his apartment building was almost entirely blown off, leaving walls gaping.

A number of people were killed by the U.S. strikes, though Venezuelan officials did not confirm how many. Among those killed was González's aunt.

"This is it, what we are left with: ruins," he said.

González spoke with anger at the wreckage but also at the compounding economic and political crises that Venezuela has endured for decades.

"We are civilians, we are not with the government or anyone else," he said. □

Myanmar's military government releases more than 6,100 prisoners on independence anniversary



A released prisoner, right, is welcomed by her colleague after she was released from Insein Prison Sunday, Jan. 4, 2026, in Yangon, Myanmar.

Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Myanmar's military government granted amnesty to more than 6,100 prisoners and reduced other inmates'

sentences Sunday to mark the 78th anniversary of the country's independence from Britain.

It was not immediately clear

whether those released include the thousands of political detainees imprisoned for opposing military rule.

The amnesty comes as the military government proceeds with a monthlong, three-stage election process that critics say is designed to add a facade of legitimacy to the status quo. State-run MRTV television reported that Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, the head of the military government, pardoned 6,134 prisoners. A separate statement said 52 foreigners will also be released and deported from Myanmar. No comprehensive list of those freed is available.

Other prisoners received reduced sentences, except for those convicted of seri-

ous charges such as murder and rape or those jailed on charges under various other security acts.

The release terms warn that if the freed detainees violate the law again, they will have to serve the remainder of their original sentences in addition to any new sentence.

The prisoner releases, common on holidays and other significant occasions in Myanmar, began Sunday and are expected to take several days to complete. Buses took prisoners out of Yangon's Insein Prison after 11 a.m., where friends and families of detainees had waited since morning for the announced releases. Among the first group freed from Insein Prison, accord-

ing to the pro-army news outlet Popular News Journal, was Ye Htut, a former high-profile army officer who had served as information minister and presidential spokesperson in a previous military-backed government.

He was arrested in October 2023 and sentenced to 10 years in prison the following month after being convicted of sedition and incitement for writing Facebook posts that allegedly spread false or inflammatory news. However, there was no sign that the prisoner release would include former leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who was ousted in the military takeover in 2021 and has been held virtually incommunicado since then. □



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Aruba celebrates its Torchlight Parade for Carnival 72!



(Oranjestad)—On Saturday night, the Aruba community came together once again for the first parade of the Carnival 72 season: the Torchlight Parade, better known as “Fakkel.”

The night was a warm one and marked a great start to the year for many Carnival fans. As is customary every year, several groups

participated in the parade, complete with bands, bars, and of course participants who danced and enjoyed the carnival atmosphere on a cool and bright Saturday night.

The parade route followed the same one as every year, starting at the Aruba Entertainment Cen-



ter, passing through Vondellaan, and ending at the Turbo Roundabout.

The order of the groups for this year was as follows:

- TOB Carnival Group
- Dushi Carnival Group
- Los Laga Bai
- Royal Carnival Group
- Champagne Carnival Group

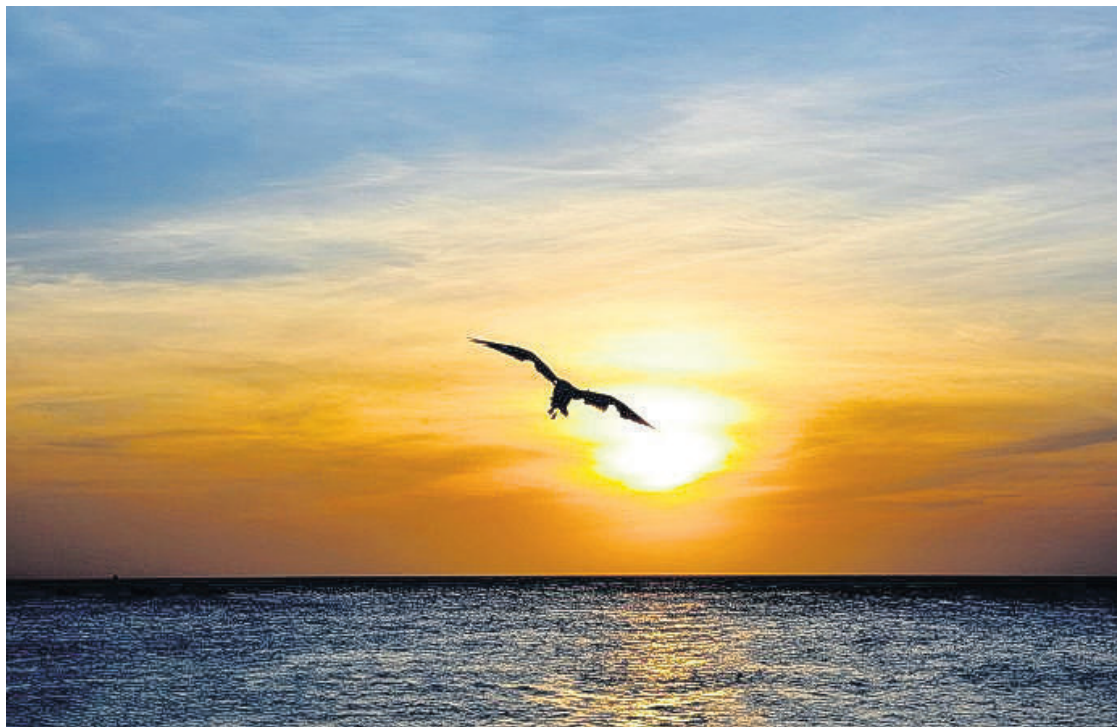


- Empire Carnival Group
- Colours Carnival Group
- Hepa DMC Society

Are you celebrating Aruba's Carnival this season? Send us your photos and we will feature them in our coverage for this season's Carnival festivities! Stay tuned with SMAC's schedule for other parades and Carnival event (find SMAC on Facebook). □



Best spots to view the sunset



(Oranjestad)—What can be more romantic than surprising your partner with a date watching the sunset? Aruba's sunset leave many speechless, and luckily, the best spots to view the sunset are entirely accessible and easy to find. Here are some of the best places to view the sunset on the island.

California Light House
Of course, being one of the highest points easily

accessible to locals and tourists, the California Light House hill not only offers a tremendous view of the sunset, but also a breath taking scenery of most of the island. In the distance you can spot all the hotels, the western shoreline and the wild waves that crash on the northern side of the island.

Manchebo & Eagle Beach
Speaking of the western shoreline, the best spots

for viewing the sunset on the beach has to be either Manchebo Beach or at Eagle Beach, which stretch along the entire western coast of the island. The sunset on these beaches is truly breathtaking; the sky and ocean look so big and spacious, and paired with the orange/pink hue of the sunset, the white sandy beaches and the soft sounds of waves crashing—it can only be described as an experience!

Arashi Beach

Another beach that has to be considered as another great spot to view the sunset. Arashi Beach is the last beach you will find along the western coast line, just before you drive up the hill to the California Light House. A favorite for surfers and body boarders, the Arashi sky stretches out for miles, lending a spectacular canvas for the sun to create a masterpiece of orange, pink and purple

Hooiberg Hill

These last two options are for more active couples. If you and your partner like to hike, the Hooiberg Hill may be a great place for you to get your daily workout in and enjoy a beautiful view of the sunset and the island as a little reward. Climb on top the 587-step stairs and reach the top to enjoy this incredible scenery.

Casibari Rock Formation

If you're a rock climber, you might enjoy watching the sunset on top of the Casibari Rock Formation. It's no Yosemite, but it does offer a fun little exercise to get to the top. But if you prefer not to get your hands a little dirty, you can always use the stairs in the back.hue.□

Rock stacking and its harmful effects



(Oranjestad)—The organization Aruba Birdlife Conservation has in the past raised concerns about the phenomenon of "rock stacking" in the area of Baby Beach and warned about the dangers it poses, especially for children.

As known, "rock stacking" is not illegal in Aruba, but its impact on nature is harmful as the stones form part of the natural habitat of small animal species living in Aruba's wilderness. Experts warn that "rock stacking" could even lead certain species to extinction.

In Aruba, much of the "rock stacking" also occurs near Arikok National Park. Although this activity is not illegal in Aruba, it may be time for park authorities to impose stricter regulations on this activity.

Tourists often believe that the meaning behind this activity is making a wish, but they do not realize its negative impact.

Aruba Birdlife Conservation's post not only raises alarms about the activity but also now that this phenomenon has reached Baby Beach, some of the stacked stone towers are up to 1.7 meters high, which can be very dangerous, especially for children.□

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Aruba Airport Operations to Resume Normally Following Flight Cancellations

Oranjestad —Queen Beatrix International Airport advises that airport operations are expected to resume normally Sunday, January 4, 2026.

Saturday, out of 58 scheduled inbound and outbound flights, a total of 44 flights were cancelled, including 38 U.S. flights and 7 non-U.S. flights. Aruba Airport is working in close coordination with airline partners and airport authorities to safely and efficiently accommodate affected passengers.

As a result, the airport was expected to be a busier-than-usual operational day Sunday, as Saturday was originally anticipated to be a high-volume travel day ("Super Saturday"), with 58 flights and approximately 15,000 passengers scheduled to be processed.

Passengers with confirmed flights are advised to arrive at the airport on time for their scheduled departure. Passenger flow control measures will remain in effect to support safe, secure,



and orderly operations.

Passengers whose flights were cancelled Saturday, as well as travelers without a confirmed flight, are strongly advised not to come to the airport and to contact their airline directly for rebooking and updated travel arrangements.

Aruba Airport will continue

to monitor the situation closely and provide updates as appropriate. Passengers are encouraged to check directly with their airline and visit www.airportaruba.com for the most up-to-date flight information.

Aruba Airport would like to thank all airport partners in advance for their continued cooperation and

support as operations work toward a safe and orderly return to normal tomorrow.

About AUA Airport

About AUA Airport AUA Airport is one of the busiest airports in the Caribbean region, with more than 24 different airlines operating into Aruba contributing to processing more than 3.2 million passengers

per year and providing air service to 31 cities and 45 non-stop destinations worldwide. AUA Airport's markets served comprise of 73% from the United States & Canada, 18% from Latin America, 4% from Europe, and 5% from Dutch Caribbean. AUA Airport attributes this to the island's stable economic and political climate, hospitable and multilingual population, and safe environment. AUA Airport's aspiration is to become one of the most Sustainable, Safe, and Future Proof airports of the Latin America & Caribbean region, providing a trusted workplace, modern airport facilities and excellent customer service which reflects Aruban hospitality, contributing to a prosperous future for Aruba.

Learn more about what's happening at AUA Airport by visiting www.airportaruba.com and connect with AUA Airport on [Twitter.com/Aruba_Airport](https://twitter.com/Aruba_Airport), [Facebook.com/ArubaAirport](https://facebook.com/ArubaAirport), [Instagram.com/arubaairport/](https://instagram.com/arubaairport/), [TikTok.com/@arubaairport](https://tiktok.com/@arubaairport) and [Linkedin.com/ArubaAirport](https://linkedin.com/ArubaAirport). □

Aruba to me:

"We couldn't think of a better place to be stuck for an extra week...."

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Karen and Donald Feldman from Boston; Craig Feldman from NYC, and Tracy, Doug, Holden and Tenley Campbell from NYC.

They wrote to us saying: "Aruba to us is... grounded by closed skies, held by Aruba—another week of family laughter, lingering sunsets, and delicious dinners that stretch into memories. We couldn't think of a better place to be stuck for an extra week...."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □



Fun facts about the 'Lisinbein'

The 'Lisinbein' (*Scolopendra gigantea*), also known as the Giant Centipede, is one of the largest centipedes in the world and is found in Aruba. Its size and hunting prowess make it a fascinating, if often misunderstood, creature.

Despite its fearsome reputation, it plays a crucial ecological role that often goes unnoticed.

As an apex invertebrate predator, *Scolopendra gigantea* helps maintain balance in the ecosystem. Moreover, they themselves are a food source for birds such as the Crested Caracara (Warawara) and the Aruba burrowing owl (Shoco).

It controls populations of smaller invertebrates and even small vertebrates, ensuring that no species over-

populates, which could disrupt local biodiversity.

Its presence can indicate a healthy, functioning ecosystem. Its sensitivity to environmental changes makes it a bioindicator of ecological balance.

It can reach an impressive length of up to 30 centimeters (approx. 12 inches) and live for around 5 to 10 years in the wild. Its size and longevity makes it a significant and long-term part of the ecosystem.

A mother's love

In *Scolopendra* species, the 'mother' typically exhibits maternal care by curling around her eggs and newly hatched young. She stays coiled around the clutch, protecting it from predators

and fungi, which are serious risks in the moist environments these centipedes often inhabit. The mother maintains a clean environment for the eggs by carefully grooming them, which helps prevent fungal growth that could endanger the brood. This behavior may continue until the young centipedes have undergone their first molt, making them more capable of independent survival.

This form of parental care is beneficial in increasing the survival rates of offspring, as the mother's protection provides a safe 'environment' during their vulnerable developmental stages. It's a fascinating adaptation because it shows a form of care that resembles more complex behaviors observed in vertebrates.



No bark, but all bite!

The lisinbein is known locally for having a really painful sting. While venomous, the Lisinbein is generally not aggressive toward humans unless provoked. Its role as a guardian of balance in the ecosystem helps protect the

natural beauty of Aruba by keeping the ecosystem in harmony.

Editor's note: Information and pictures provided by Ms. Natasha Silva from the Aruba Conservation Foundation. □

Aruba's kite flying tradition



(Oranjestad)—Every year for King's Day, Arubans gather with friends and family to fly kites. Big or small, paper or plastic, blue skies fill up with these colorful flying contraptions, brightening our yearly celebration of the Dutch Monarch.

The tradition of flying kites starts at home in the weeks leading up to King's Day. These kites were traditionally made with things found in the nearby *mondi** and in the kitchen at home. Using dried up cactus sticks for the frame, old news papers, and glue made from flour, water and salt to dry faster (some people even use cornstarch slurry as glue), kids usually make their own kites with their friends, parents or other close family members. Tails are made from old bed sheets, ripped and tied together to create a long string of fabric trailing behind the back end of the kite. To finish off the process, people used fish lines or thin rope to tie three corners of the kite together. Another long string of rope is tied in the knotted center and bundled up, used to steer the kite as it flies in the air. Decorating the kite was especially important, and children would use paint to create their own designs—the more colorful, the better!

People usually fly their kites in big open fields, like empty soccer and baseball fields found all around the island around noon, when the sun is at its brightest. In the past few years, kite flying has become a sport in which groups of people would battle against each other to see whose kite is the biggest, the prettiest, and whose could fly flawlessly and longer in the air.

*Mondi: Aruban woods. □

Get to know the history of the gold industry on Aruba



(Oranjestad)— We have talked about the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin before and its brief history during the gold industry on Aruba, but get to know a little more about the history of the “Aruban Gold Rush.”

The first hint of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when rumors about gold being found in dug up treasure chests of the Spanish colonial era prompted the first official exploration for gold on the island, commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some specks of gold, it was not enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself. It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young farmer boy named Willem Rasmijn found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep in the area of Rooi Fluit on the north coast. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold.

When the colonial governor in Curacao, Governor Cantz'laar, heard about the news, he sent his adjutant, Capitan van Raders, to start harvesting gold. This was in July 1824. In August of that same year, the governor followed suit to the island, accompanied by high-ranking military officials. When citizens started swarming the area in search for gold, The Netherlands sent more troops to safe guard the gold.

Prominent places where gold was found was in Daimari, Wacobana, Arikok, Rooi Fluit, Hadicouradi and later West punt, where gold ore was found. Because of a lack in advanced technology and materials to harvest the gold, the process took a more primitive approach: Clay rocks containing traces of gold were left to dry in the sun. Then, workers would start chipping the clay away on a large canvas to catch the gold particles that were left behind after the wind blew away the dust from the clay.

In the harvest period of 1824-1825, there was a total of 71,000 kilos collected through commissioned harvesting. Locals themselves reportedly found about 25 pounds worth of gold in the nearby rivers. The following years after that first big harvest, commission work fell off, and in 1828, the director of the goldmines, Johan Gravenhorst, decided to halt harvesting.

Almost 40 years later, the London-based Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was granted concession. The firm built their gold mines on Bushiribana, and in the port of Oranjestad a long road that connected the gold mill to the port. The ores themselves came from Sero Plat en Sero Cristal.

By this point, workers were still using primitive methods to harvest the ores. For example, when someone had to go into the mines, there were no stairs or lifts; the person had to be brought down in a big bucket, with two or more workers holding the bucket by a thick rope above ground. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. reportedly operated until 1899, and right after the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. was established, coincidentally also based in London. This time, the gold mill in Balashi was built, and more mines were dug up all around the island. The gold ores that were found were transported via track engine, locally called the “trekinchi”. Despite being more equipped for the job, the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. could not produce any real profit, and so the concession was terminated just eight years later, in 1908.

A local firm, the “Aruba Goud Maatschappij” (Aruba Gold Company) took over the concession, along with all the materials and equipment. In the beginning, the company saw good profit, and for a while, the island's economy depended primarily on the mining and harvesting of gold. But just like its predecessors, the streak of luck for the Aruba Gold Company came to an end when WWI broke out.

The main reason why production stopped this time was reportedly because of a lack in dynamite for extracting the ores from the mines, as well as a lack in raw materials like German cyanide for the refining process. By the time the war ended, the equipment that was left at Balashi were too old to use again. After the war, gold production on the Aruba was left to a standstill.

According to an issue in Aruba Esso News paper in 1953, Henny Eman wanted to start up digging again, this time using independent miners. He argued that there was proof of more gold to be discovered. Plus, hiring independent miners would boost the island's employment rate.

When it was proven that gold was in fact still present, the executive board on the island promised to fund the project only if the gold dug up proved to be valuable. However, nothing else was reported after this, so it could be concluded that there was no real profitable market on the island anymore.

The ruins of the Bushiribana and Balashi Gold Mills are still standing, and open for the public to visit. These structures offer a glance into the past, to a time where Aruba experienced one of its first wave of industrialization. Today, these structures are persevered as historical monuments. □

Source:

1. “De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over the geschiedenis van Aruba)” by Evert Bongers.
2. Aruba Esso News, 1953 issue.

CROSSWORD

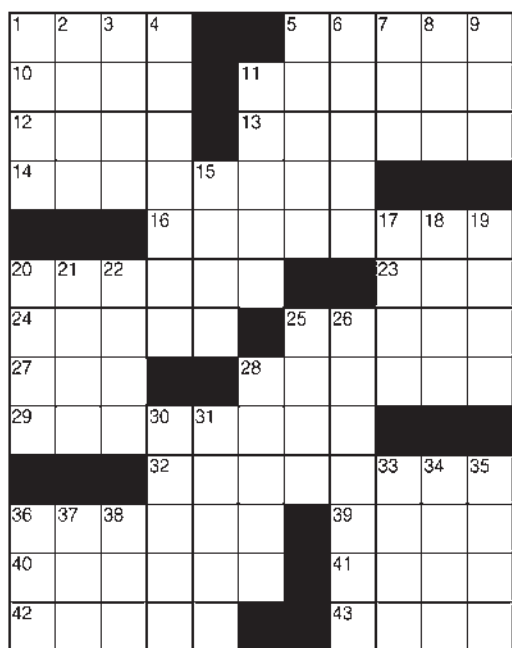
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Neatnik's opposite
- 5 Small porch
- 10 Casserole staple
- 11 Painter's place
- 12 Brighton brews
- 13 Take care of
- 14 1998 Wes Anderson film
- 16 Weary from walking
- 20 Modify
- 23 Pasture
- 24 Elite Navy group
- 25 Corona, e.g.
- 27 Here, in Quebec
- 28 "Key Largo" co-star
- 29 Legends and such
- 32 Dyed-in-the-wool
- 36 Tahini base
- 39 Follow orders
- 40 Conjured up
- 41 Single
- 42 Luke-warm
- 43 Owner's document

DOWN

- 1 Flag feature
- 2 Hum-dinger
- 3 Wallet bills
- 4 Doc's friend
- 5 Set off
- 6 Melodies
- 7 Strange
- 8 Gusher flow
- 9 "The Gold-Bug" writer
- 11 Photo session
- 15 Terrarium growth
- 17 Gymnast Korbut
- 18 Genuine
- 19 Rank above viscount
- 20 "Like that'll happen!"
- 21 1920s art
- 22 Lockup
- 25 Joker, e.g.
- 26 Freezing
- 28 Yawning, perhaps
- 30 Uniform material
- 31 Crippled
- 33 Clarinet cousin
- 34 Painter Magritte
- 35 Took in
- 36 Ready to go
- 37 Genesis name
- 38 Soak up



1-12

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-12

CRYPTOQUOTE

C STQ'P YQTV VGOXO C'U

FTCQF HXTU GOXO, LIP C

BXTUCRO C VTQ'P LTXO ATI.

— SWECS LTVCO

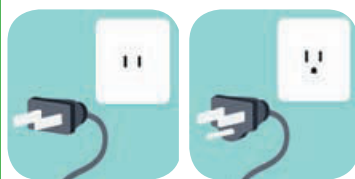
Cryptoquote: FIND OUT WHO YOU ARE AND DO IT ON PURPOSE. — DOLLY PARTON

Cruise ship Schedule: Jan. 03 - 07 2026

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
SAT	03	AIDAPERLA	09.00	21.00	C	1
SUN	04	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
MON	05	EUROPA 2	08.00	18.00	B	1
		VALIANT LADY	09.00	19.00	C	1
TUE	06	SEABOUR OVATION	07.00	21.00	C	1
WED	07	CARIBBEAN PRINCESS	09.00	22.00	B	1
		BRILLIANT LADY	10.00	22.00	C	1
		NORWEGIAN SKY	11.00	20.00	I	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 8 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

8	1						3	5
3	9		6	8	1		7	2
		7	2			1		
	7	3	5				6	
	2		7	3				8
1					6		5	7
			3		9			6
	8		1			5	9	
	3	9		4		7	2	

Difficulty: ★

1/5

Answer to previous puzzle

3	8	4	6	2	7	5	9	1
1	5	7	8	4	9	6	3	2
6	9	2	1	3	5	4	8	7
5	2	6	9	7	3	8	1	4
7	4	8	2	6	1	9	5	3
9	3	1	5	8	4	2	7	6
2	1	5	3	9	6	7	4	8
4	6	9	7	1	8	3	2	5
8	7	3	4	5	2	1	6	9

Difficulty: ★★★★★

1/4

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Why ordering takeout or calling the dog walker might lead to a happier relationship

By **TRACEE M. HERBAUGH**
Associated Press

It turns out, love may benefit from a little less labor.

Couples who spend money on time-saving services — like getting takeout, hiring a housecleaner or calling a dog walker — report greater relationship satisfaction, especially during stressful periods, says Ashley Whillans, a behavioral scientist and professor at Harvard Business School.

Whillans studies the "tradeoffs people make between time and money."

"When you spend money to save time — hiring an accountant, a babysitter, a cleaner — you feel more control over your life," she said. "That sense of autonomy boosts well-being."

Not everyone can afford to outsource bigger household chores. But Whillans says even a little bit can help. She advises couples to take a "time audit" — examining how they spend their hours and what small changes could reclaim even a few moments.

"People underestimate how much these choices matter," she said. "It's not about luxury — it's about freeing up time to connect."

Whillans' team tracked busy, dual-income couples — partners working full-time who often report feeling time-starved — and found consistent patterns. In one six-week diary study, couples who made "time-saving purchases" on a given day were happier and more satisfied with their relationships.

Use that saved time for connecting

Simply outsourcing chores isn't a magic fix, however. "It's about being intentional with the time you get back — using it to spend quality time together, to reconnect," Whillans said.

"Think of that half hour not as an opportunity to send more emails, but as a chance to spend time with your partner."

Targol Hasankhani, a Chicago-based marriage and family therapist, stressed that while outsourcing domestic

labor can ease daily stress, it doesn't replace communication. Juggling careers and kids takes a toll on families, and housework is often freighted with resentments over who is doing it.

"If conflict around chores is rooted in something deeper — like inequity or not feeling heard — hiring a cleaner won't solve that," she said. Couples must dig deeper to address problems with many layers.

"It opens up time and space, but couples still have to know how to show up for each other in that space," Hasankhani said.

Casey Mulligan Walsh, 71, a former speech pathologist and author in upstate New York, said the best part about hiring a housecleaner once a week was that it freed up time for her and her husband to spend together. "My favorite day of the week was coming home to a clean house," she said. "We'd go get coffee together instead of arguing about who should vacuum."

A Valentine's Day gift that stuck

Getting started on delegating household tasks isn't easy for some couples, Whillans said. Besides the cost, "it takes time to find someone and coordinate — but the long-term payoff is real."

And making such decisions together can deepen trust and a sense of teamwork. For one Colorado couple, outsourcing started as an act of love.

"When I started dating, my now-husband noticed how hard I was working — at my job, at home and as a single mom," said Melissa Jones, a 45-year-old teacher in Pueblo.

His Valentine's Day gift? A deep housecleaning. "It was truly amazing," Jones said. "After that, I kept it up on my own for years. When my husband and I moved in together, we decided to continue."

"We're able to make memories with each other, our kids and our families instead of spending weekends scrubbing floors," she said. □

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Oranjestad:

Oduber: Tel.585 8028

San Nicolas:

Aloe:Tel.584 4606

OTHER

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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

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American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

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FAVI- Visually Impaired
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Alcoholics Anonymous
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Narcotics Anonymous
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

As Hurricanes navigate the CFP challenge, the echoes from the past tend to inspire

By **TIM REYNOLDS**

AP Sports Writer

CORAL GABLES, Fla. (AP) —

Miami defensive lineman Rueben Bain Jr. doesn't say much. He just plays.

That's part of the reason why Bain giving a short, impromptu and unexpected halftime speech to teammates during of Miami's win over Ohio State in a College Football Playoff quarterfinal at the Cotton Bowl last week was a moment that went viral.

"They don't got the energy we got, bro," Bain said. "They don't want it how we want it."

And with that, Bain got his "Joaquin said dominate" moment that surely will go into Hurricane lore. Miami (12-2, CFP No. 10 seed) had more than enough of the energy that Bain was speaking of, beat Ohio State 24-14 and moved into Thursday's CFP semifinal at the Fiesta Bowl against Mississippi (13-1, CFP No. 6 seed).

It was at a game in 2001 — Miami's last national championship season — when eventual Pro Football Hall of Fame safety Ed Reed gave a now-famous speech to teammates at halftime in Tallahassee, a game the Hurricanes were leading rival Florida State 21-13. Reed's shoulder was banged up, and the Seminoles seemed to have the



Former NFL players Ray Lewis, left, jokes with Michael Irvin during the first half of the Cotton Bowl College Football Playoff quarterfinal game between Ohio State and Miami Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2025, in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

momentum.

Reed turned and faced his teammates before they returned to the field, quoting offensive lineman Joaquin Gonzalez for emphasis.

"I'm hurt, dawg. Don't ask me if I'm all right. Hell, no," Reed shouted. "Joaquin said dominate and we're not doing it." He said a little more, turned and ran out of the tunnel. What happened over the next few minutes showed how much Reed's words mattered to teammates.

Miami scored four touch-

downs in the third quarter, blowing out Florida State and eventually finishing the season as 12-0 national champions. Reed didn't seek the spotlight in those days, much in the same way Bain doesn't seek it now.

"To come out and speak in front of the entire team, when that's not necessarily something that he does all the time, you know he means it," Miami quarterback Carson Beck said. "I think there's weight behind that. That's something that's coming from the heart,

something that you know he needs to say to the team. Shoot, it had me juiced. I was ready to roll out there and go die for those boys. Obviously, I think it's an iconic moment that we'll always remember as a team."

It's a balancing act for Miami coach Mario Cristobal, who played on two national title teams when he was a Hurricanes offensive lineman. He welcomes back the alumni, while simultaneously making sure the current team keeps looking forward.

"I think just the entirety of

the Miami Hurricanes family from years past, showing up and supporting our team and getting back involved with the university, is absolutely awesome," Cristobal said. "It also gives our players a chance to experience that brotherhood that we have always spoken about so strongly of."

At Miami, the names from the past — like Reed — still inspire. Michael Irvin — another Hall of Famer — has been a regular on the Miami sideline for the past couple of seasons, and Cristobal has welcomed the sort of energy he brings. When running back Mark Fletcher Jr. fumbled the ball away early in the Ohio State game, it was Edgerrin James — another Hall of Famer — who got into his ear and calmed him down. And when Beck was warming up for the game, he was starstruck when he saw Ray Lewis — another Hall of Famer — just a few feet away.

"I literally just looked at him and just shook his hand and he introduced himself," Beck said. "And then he's like, 'Yo, go win us the ball game.' And I was like: 'Well, now I have to. We literally have to go score. Like, I can't let this dude down.'"

Sometimes, the impact of those past Miami stars comes even when they're not physically there. □

Myles Garrett gets sack No. 23 to set NFL single-season record



Cleveland Browns defensive end Myles Garrett, top, sacks Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow (9) to set an NFL record for sacks in the regular season during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Jan. 4, 2026, in Cincinnati.

Associated Press

By **JOE REEDY**

AP Sports Writer

CINCINNATI (AP) — Cleve-

land Browns All-Pro pass

rusher Myles Garrett set the NFL's single-season sack record, reaching No. 23 for the season with 5:09 remaining during the fourth quarter of Sunday's game against the Cincinnati Bengals.

Garrett sacked Joe Burrow for a 6-yard loss on first-and-10 at the Browns 45-yard line. Burrow was in the shotgun formation when he saw Garrett coming and went down.

Garrett came into the game needing one sack to surpass the mark of 22 1/2 shared by Pro Football Hall of Famer Michael Strahan (in 2001 with the New York Giants) and Pittsburgh's T.J.

Watt in 2021.

The sack in some ways was similar to Strahan's record-breaking sack of Green Bay's Brett Favre. Both players didn't put up much of a challenge when they saw an oncoming pass rusher. Garrett's teammates celebrated his 23rd sack even though Cincinnati tried to go no-huddle on the next play.

Garrett has sacked 51 players over his nine-year NFL career. Burrow is at the top of the list at 12 in 10 meetings.

The NFL did not start counting sacks as an official statistic until 1982. Mark Gastineau of the New York Jets

had 22 in 1984 until Strahan surpassed that late in the fourth quarter of the New York Giants' 2001 season finale against Green Bay. Favre went down to the ground as Strahan was approaching to set the mark. Watt tied the record during the final game in 2021 at Baltimore by taking down Ravens QB Tyler Huntley. Garrett has recorded at least half a sack in 11 of 12 games including Sunday. That includes a team-record five against the New England Patriots on Oct. 26, four against the Baltimore Ravens on Nov. 14 and three one week later at Las Vegas. □

Alford's red-zone pick saves Falcons' 19-17 win over Saints, giving NFC South title to Panthers

By CHARLES ODUM

AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Dee Alford's red-zone interception stopped a potential go-ahead drive by New Orleans, and the Atlanta Falcons beat the Saints 19-17 on Sunday to give the NFC South title to the Carolina Panthers. By closing the season with four consecutive wins, the Falcons (8-9) finished in a three-way tie with Carolina and Tampa Bay for first place in the NFC South. The Panthers won the tiebreaker with the best record within the division. The Falcons completed a season sweep of the Saints (6-11), who had their four-game winning streak end. Tampa Bay stayed alive with a 16-14 home win over Carolina on Saturday. The Buccaneers needed a win or tie by the Saints on Sunday to win the division. The Panthers made the playoffs for the first time since 2017 and won the division for the first time in a decade.

Trailing 16-10, the Saints drove from their 25 to the Atlanta 20 before Alford returned his interception of Tyler Shough's pass intended for Dante Pettis 59 yards to the Saints 27 with 3:14 remaining. The play set up Zane Gonzalez's fourth field goal, a 38-yarder, to extend Atlanta's lead to nine points. Shough answered with a 16-yard touchdown pass to Ronnie Bell with 1:11 remaining, but Atlanta's Kyle Pitts recovered an onside kick. While the NFC South winner was the big prize in the game, the Saints and Falcons played the opening quarter as if determined to show why they had long been eliminated from postseason contention. On the Saints' first play from scrimmage, tight end Juwan Johnson fumbled after a 26-yard reception and Xavier Watts recovered for Atlanta. The Falcons then gave the ball back when defensive end Carl Granderson, who already had a sack, intercepted a pass from Kirk Cousins. Later in the opening quarter, Falcons safety Jammie Robinson blocked a punt by Kai Kroeger, and Feleipe Franks recovered

and returned it 3 yards to the New Orleans 5.

A Falcons penalty negated an apparent touchdown run by Bijan Robinson before Cousins' 15-yard touchdown pass to Drake London. Gonzalez's 40-yard field goal increased Atlanta's lead before Shough's 1-yard scoring run in the second quarter. The Saints were denied a touchdown on an apparent 1-yard scoring pass from Shough to Kevin Austin Jr. in the third quarter when Austin was called for offensive pass interference. Instead, Charlie Smyth's 29-yard field goal trimmed Atlanta's lead to 13-10. Shough completed 22 of 35 passes for 259 yards with one touchdown and one interception. He also ran for a score.

Sacks record

Rookie James Pearce Jr. sacked Shough on back-to-back plays in the third quarter. It gave the Falcons four sacks in the game and a team-record 57 for the season. The Falcons entered the weekend second in the league with 53 after finishing next-to-last with 31 last season.

Pearce finished with 10 1/2 sacks to lead NFL rookies.

Injury report

Saints: LT Kelvin Banks Jr. (left ankle) was ruled out after he was carted to the locker room in the second quarter. QB/TE Taysom Hill left with a right shoulder injury.

Falcons: CB Cobee Bryant (concussion) was knocked out of the game late in the first quarter. ... DL Brandon



Atlanta Falcons cornerback Dee Alford (20) returns an interception in the second half of an NFL football game against the New Orleans Saints, Sunday, Jan. 4, 2026, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

Dorlus (hamstring), CB Clark Phillips (triceps, illness) and ILB Ronnie Harrison (illness) were held out. Harrison, Cousins and DL David Onyemata were all added to the injury

list on Sunday with illnesses, while CB A.J. Terrell, DL Ruke Orhorhoro and long snapper Liam McCullough were listed as questionable with illnesses. □



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Create precious memories in the heart of Costa Linda Beach Resort Water's Edge Restaurant offers the complete vacation experience!



(Eagle Beach) – Consider your family dinner plans taken care of at Water's Edge. Located in the heart of the Costa Linda Beach Resort and on the shores of the world-famous Eagle Beach in Aruba, Water's Edge offers an elegant yet cozy dining experience that the entire family can enjoy. Whether you're craving Steak, Seafood, International Dishes or a bit of the Caribbean flare, Water's Edge caters to all your culinary needs, all the while offering you a cozy and flexible service with a spectacular view of Aruba's top-rated sandy beaches.

Water's Edge's new menu has a great variety of appetizers, main courses and delicious desserts all on one menu specially made just for you. From the minute you arrive there will be a great staff welcoming you with the most contagious smiles and warmth. Flexible and professional service allows you to enjoy your meal in the cool and elegant indoor dining area, on the sandy, breezy beaches of Eagle Beach or by the open bar outside. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, Water's Edge has it all for you, any time of the day.

Start your day off with a hearty breakfast. Water's Edge offers a variety of delicious breakfast items, including their house specialties of Avocado Toast, Chicken & Waffles made with homemade Belgium waffles and topped



with a gorgeous hot honey sauce. If you want something on the sweeter side, try their Crème Brûlée French Toast, served with an in-house mascarpone whip cream and topped with fresh fruit and powdered sugar. Or maybe the Traditional American Breakfast is more to your liking, complete with any kind of serving of eggs, bacon, sausage and toast, served with a side of hash browns.

For lunch, keep it easy with their handheld items like their Bacon and Cheddar Burger, Mediterranean Quesadillas or Street Tacos. Want a taste of the Caribbean? Try the Grouper Reuben; A local twist to the traditional Reuben, complete with rye bread, in-house 1000 island dressing, sauerkraut and grilled grouper, served with a side of Cajun Fries.

Dinner plans are set with Water's Edge mouthwatering dinner menu. Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy Calamari or the delectable Coconut Shrimp. You can also opt for their Water's Edge House Wedge Salad or freshly made Shrimp Louie Salad, made with poached shrimp, tossed in Louie dressing, fresh avocados and vine ripe tomatoes. For something a bit heartier, try their classic French Onion Soup, Lobster Bisque or Crab and Corn Chowder.

Follow your appetizers with your choice of Seafood, Chicken or Pasta dishes. Enjoy their succulent Shrimp and Clam Sauce with Angel Hair Pasta, a nice plate of Chicken Francese or explore the Water's Edge Fish Market—your pick of Mahi Mahi, Snapper, Grouper or Salmon, served with homemade mashed potatoes, sauce of choice and fresh herbs and vegetables.

Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of Steak, including a Petite Filet, French Rack of Lambs or their famous 14oz pan-seared Pork finished with a fantastic apple glaze. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi-glace, mushroom sauce, chimichurri or bacon blue cheese butter. Enjoy it with a side of fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, and four different types of fries. Combine your meal with your personal



choice of international and exclusive wines.

Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled Kids Menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests.

End the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness. Choose from a variety of dessert options, including a piece of coconut flan, NY cheesecake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

Live entertainment

For seven nights a week, there is live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, every night is a relaxing experience under the stars, where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

Water's Edge prides itself on bringing elegance and comfort to your dining experience, offering personalized service fit for everybody's needs.

Water's Edge is open daily from 8am – 11pm

To reserve your table please call +297 583 8000 Ext. 8106 or + 297 586 9494 (direct), or reserve your table online at reservations@watersedgearuba.com. For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website watersedgearuba.com 